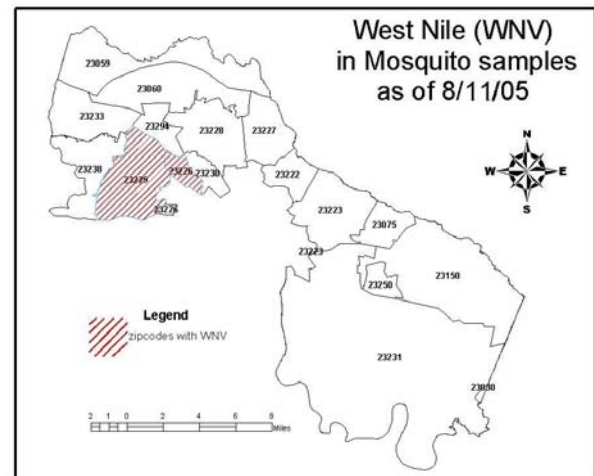


Communicable Disease Update: **Shigella** – Shigellosis has been reported in the metro Richmond area since the beginning of the summer. The Shigella isolates have been ampicillin-resistant as is expected. Those primarily affected include toddlers between the ages of 2-4 years of age. As a result, daycare centers are more susceptible to outbreaks of Shigellosis. Other high risk groups likely to spread illness include food handlers and those providing direct patient care in hospitals, nursing homes or other institutions. Testing of patients presenting with the typical clinical picture will aid in the identification of persons in high risk groups and decrease the opportunity for additional transmission in these settings. **We are recommending that persons in high risk settings testing positive for Shigellosis remain out of these settings until their diarrhea ceases and they are proven culture negative (2 negative stools obtained 24 hours apart, but not sooner than 48 hours following discontinuation of antimicrobials).** **Syphilis** – New primary and secondary syphilis cases continue to present in Henrico County. According to CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/>), after an all-time low in 2000, the syphilis rate in the U.S. rose for the third consecutive year in 2003. Proper diagnosis and treatment are key components of syphilis control. A review in JAMA provides a good overview of syphilis (JAMA 2003; 290:1510-1514). Treatment guidelines are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/STD/treatment/>. The CDC Syphilis Elimination Effort toolkit includes a Physician pocket guide on syphilis available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/see/HealthCareProviders/DocPocket-H.pdf>. For your assistance, the syphilis case definitions from the CDC's "Recommendations for public health surveillance of syphilis", March 2003 are summarized on our website <http://www.publichealthbytes.org>. **Arboviral Disease Surveillance** - Henrico Health Department is working in partnership with Henrico County's Standing Water Initiative to ensure that mosquito surveillance data is available to the public. A map of Henrico Zip Codes (as shown on this edition of PHB) in which mosquitoes have tested positive for WNV is now available at our county health department website <http://www.co.henrico.va.us/health/westnile.htm> under "Where has West Nile Virus been found in Henrico..."

All Hands On Deck For Sentinel Influenza Surveillance:

The Henrico County Health Department is looking for medical practices willing to participate in sentinel influenza surveillance during the upcoming influenza season. Medical practices would have the option of participating in either the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) or CDC systems, which differ slightly by the type of data gathered. Your participation would aid in the monitoring of influenza-like illness activity and circulating virus types and strains during the influenza season. For more information, please call Seth Levine, the district epidemiologist, at (804) 501-5216.



Emergency Preparedness Update: **CDC Publishes Mass Trauma Website** - While terrorist attacks with Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) continue to be a concern to U.S. Officials, the overwhelming trend in worldwide terrorism has been the use of explosives to inflict mass casualties. Recent terror attacks in Israel, Iraq, London, and Egypt have demonstrated that explosives are still the preferred mode of attack. Because many U.S. physicians are not familiar with the treatment of blast injuries, the CDC has developed a new website to assist physicians in preparing to manage, triage, and treat these types of casualties. The website is titled "Mass Trauma Preparedness and Response" and can be found at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masstrauma/index.asp>. **Blast Fax Capabilities:** Henrico Health Department has expanded its Blast Fax capabilities to allow rapid communication with hospitals; family practice, pediatric, and internal medicine physicians; nursing homes; assisted living facilities; and daycare centers in Henrico County. We are currently working to add Pharmacies to the list as well. In the interest of keeping our fax database as current as possible, please update us promptly if there are any changes to your fax number or if you wish to add a fax number.

Prevention updates: Updates from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) - On August 1, 2005, the USPSTF released the following recommendation concerning peripheral arterial disease screening of asymptomatic adults:

- **USPSTF recommends against routine screening for peripheral arterial disease (PAD). Rating: D Recommendation.** The full report can be accessed at <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspstf.htm>